

**Behavioral Health Sub-Committee
Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Commission
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
Connecticut Office of Policy and Management**

**Minutes
November 4, 2010 9:00 – 11:00 am (Russell Hall, CVH)**

In attendance: Michael Aiello, Dan Bannish, Martha Brown, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Edward Mattison, Loel Meckel, Michael Norko, Michael Peloso, Louise Pyers, Monte Radler, Alicia Woodsby, Sally Zanger

1. **Introductions:** No guests or new members were present.

2. **Review of minutes of August 12, 2010 - Approved** with one amendment.

3. **Additions to agenda:** none

4. **BH program updates:**

A. Forensic funds initiatives – Loel Meckel reported on progress with implementing the new SFY11 funding provided to DMHAS for services and housing and to DSS for housing for offenders with mental illness and/or addictions. Funds will be used for 110 permanent rental subsidies, permanent supportive housing case management for these clients, and expansion of DMHAS diversion and reentry services. Also included is funding for three entitlement specialists positions in DSS to process entitlement applications for discharging inmates so they can access treatment services and medications immediately after release.

Louise Pyers noted that there is some loss of fidelity to model in New Haven CIT in absence of a CIT clinician to work with officers regularly. Referrals have decreased and sense of connectedness to CMHC has also diminished among officers. If position not filled, Louise suggests that covering clinicians periodically attend police roll call to re-establish a presence. Louise and Erin will speak to covering clinician about this.

B. Rapid Treatment Option – No new admissions since March 2010.

C. Outpatient restoration – Michael Norko reported that a meeting was held in September among those involved in the pilot program to review progress. Currently creating flow diagram for how program will work, and settling some technical matters. Hope to begin pilot in the near future.

D. Retirements update – no new data. Michael Aiello raised idea of converting existing programs to new uses (e.g., using halfway house beds for mental health or sex offender purposes) Discussion raised problem of economy of scale: creating small programs for people with large service needs could be as expensive as incarceration. Dan Bannish noted that the DOC unsentenced population is increasing, which creates increased unmet service needs. (e.g., there are 34 MH Level 4 individuals, who are not DMHAS target population, who are currently in jail longer than 4 weeks awaiting trial, who receive no services pre-trial). Ed Mattison raised the possibility of increased use of peer programs for service delivery. Dan suggested we might be able to channel pre-sentence individuals through ASIST by way of peer-staffed housing, hopefully cutting into the cycle of recidivism.

E. SOAR Initiative: While adults with psychiatric disabilities often qualify for federal disability income via SSI/SSDI, many of these individuals do not have these benefits because of the requirements of the application process. CT is taking advantage of SAMHSA-funded technical assistance, SOAR, to develop collaborations among SSA, state agencies, and community agencies to process these application and train case managers to prepare the applications. A state-level planning group met on 9/30/10 and decided to first proceed with a local pilot in New Haven. The New Haven planning group will meet on 10/15/10. States that have implemented SOAR have realized significant increases in successful applications and significant reduction in wait time for benefits.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has proposed changes to the way decisions are made for awarding disability benefits based on a mental impairment. These changes will threaten the ability of people with serious mental illnesses to obtain benefits. Despite significant opposition to this change, **SSA is continuing to propose these changes but is accepting a second round of comments through 12/9/10.** Please see <http://www.bazelon.org/What-You-Can-Do/Take-Action/Alerts/Alerts-Archive/12-1-10SSAListings.aspx> for details.

F. Other: no report

5. **DOC BH updates:** Dr. Bannish reported the following

A. DOC MH data – general:

Garner is seeing increases in numbers and crisis events because no longer able to have medical director on call to manage referrals to Garner.

Garner Behavioral Engagement program is now assessing first group of individuals that were brought out of Northern CI. Next they will evaluate the subsequent group.

B. Other DOC f/u reports:

1. Early release for inmates w/ SMI – no report
2. TBI prevalence – no report
3. SO community beds RFP – looking for possible placement of some low risk SOs.
4. CJ-DATS research – no report

C. Discharge planning –

There has been an increase in individuals with dementia in DOC. One nursing home agency has been willing to take some of the DOC clients, but there are many more on lists for attempted movement. It is very difficult to get nursing homes to accept many of the DOC folks, especially those with histories of arson or sex offense.

DOC is attempting to discharge medically compromised individuals (e.g., those with terminal cancer) on medical or compassionate parole.

The ASIST Home pilot is progressing. According to DOC data, there are very few homeless, DMHAS target individuals who are un-sentenced with bonds < \$50k. Martha Brown will re-examine the cases at Osborne.

6. CJPAC - No report

7. Interest Area updates

A. Housing/employment – New initiatives discussed above in 4.A.

B. BH Services/system barriers –

- 1) updates re ROI: Agencies are reviewing ROI documents and MOA. Will be trying to bring the discussion to closure so that the MOA can be signed.
- 2) Rx for discharged inmates/detainees: no report.

C. Raise the Age – Juvenile court changes – no report.

8. Other agency updates

A. Sentence modification – tabled for subsequent meeting

9. Other Items – no report

10. Quarterly Meetings (2010 CJPAC mtgs scheduled for 9/9, 10/14, 11/10, 12/9)

A. Feb 3, 2011 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus]

B. May 5, 2011 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus]

C. Sept 1, 2011 [9:00am – 11:00am, Russell Hall, 2nd floor, CVH Campus]